

Department of Water Resources
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Health Services

2002 RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE

Workgroups: Membership, Charges and Issues

Workgroup Charges

The objective of each Task Force Workgroup is to filter through the list of topics in the matrix and create a list of priority topics. For each of these priority items, the workgroup will need to analyze and document the issues behind them. This documentation will include relevant case studies and examples that highlight the issues under consideration. The workgroup will then recommend actions for dealing with the concerns of each issue. The recommendations will include a list of pros and cons of the proposed actions.

The workgroups will create white papers. Each Task Force workgroup will provide the relevant information to the support staff. The support staff augment this information by fleshing out any loose ends. Staff will also edit the final product. The workgroups will then present their findings and the white papers to the Task Force as a whole. The white papers will become part of the foundation for the final report to the legislature.

1. Science & Health / Indirect Potable Reuse

1.1. Workgroup Members

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1.2. Charges

The main charge of the Science and Health / Indirect Potable Reuse workgroup is to examine the issues listed in the matrix, examine the scientific basis for current reuse standards, address the importance of emerging issues of scientific and public health concern, identify any areas of research needs, and substantiate the need to reconvene the California Indirect Reuse Committee and suggest its scope of work, and make any other recommendations to remove impediments to water reuse.

1.3. Issues

- ◆ Groundwater recharge and contamination
- ◆ Surface water augmentation
- ◆ Applied research on wastewater reuse by academic institutions
- ◆ Pharmaceutical and trace elements
- ◆ Construction, design, operation & maintenance
- ◆ Testing and certification to insure safe use of recycled water
- ◆ Epidemiological studies update to provide current assessment of the science regarding public health and water reuse
- ◆ The need to reconvene the indirect potable reuse committee

2. Public Information, Education and Outreach

2.1. Workgroup Members

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2.2. Charges

The charge of the Public Education and Outreach Workgroup is to address issues related to public perception and acceptance, public education programs, and social equity in the distribution of recycled water. In addition, the workgroup will identify the entities that need to be aware of the Recycled Water Task Force and recommend ways and venues to reach such entities and make them involved in the issues relevant to the Task Force mission.

2.3. Issues

- ◆ Determine current public perceptions and acceptance of water recycling
- ◆ Provide a consistently high funding for public education programs
- ◆ Additional testing and certification to ensure the safe use of recycled water
- ◆ Update epidemiological studies and provide an overall current assessment of the science regarding public health and the use of recycled water
- ◆ Address social equity in the distribution of recycled water
- ◆ Educate farmers and growers who are often reluctant to use recycled water as allowed in Title 22
- ◆ Review best management practices for recycled water outreach efforts
- ◆ Consider demographic issues and audience analysis for outreach efforts

3. Plumbing Code/Cross Connection Control

3.1. Workgroup Members

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3.2. Charges

The main charge of the Plumbing Code/Cross Connection Control workgroup is to examine Appendix J of the Plumbing Code, and related regulations, as it pertains to recycled water. Next, recommend amendments in order to advance the safe delivery and use of recycled water.

3.3. Issues

- ♦ Impracticality of installing backflow devices in old buildings
- ♦ Shutdowns for pressure testing for cross-connections
- ♦ Plumbing code “Tertiary” definition conflicts with Title 22
- ♦ Spacing requirements in commercial buildings
- ♦ Recommend improvement to the Plumbing Code and to Titles 17 and 22
- ♦ Appendix J conflicts with the Water Code
- ♦ Include professionals knowledgeable in the domain to assist in developing regulations

4. Funding / CALFED Coordination

4.1. Workgroup Members

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4.2. Charges

The main charge of the CALFED workgroup is to identify opportunities for financing recycled water projects and to propose means to coordinate the efforts of various state and federal agencies in terms of financing these projects.

4.3. Issues

- ♦ Funding for recycling projects
- ♦ Grants for public education and outreach
- ♦ Funds for research addressing emerging health issues
- ♦ Coordination among recycled water regulators
- ♦ Complexity of State subsidy process
- ♦ Tax break and water credits
- ♦ Incentive for land developers to install dual systems
- ♦ Support for surface and groundwater storage

5. Regulations & Permitting

5.1. Workgroup Members

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5.2. Charges

The main charge of the Regulations & Permitting workgroup is to review the laws, regulations, and regulatory agency practice pertaining to recycled water, to suggest amendments to remove the impediments to the safe use of recycled water, and to propose uniform regulatory application of standards throughout the state.

5.3. Issues

- ♦ Incidental runoff violations of NPDES permits (“One-Molecule” rule)
- ♦ Drought waiver for discharge limits
- ♦ Regional brine lines for discharging brines
- ♦ Spill reporting, dewatering and discharge
- ♦ State regulation of recycled water as wastewater
- ♦ Satellite wastewater treatment plants
- ♦ Coordinate with AB885 on-site wastewater treatment
- ♦ Conflicts with downstream beneficial uses
- ♦ Recycled water producers’ liability to users’ violations
- ♦ Seasonal storage/support for surface & GW storage
- ♦ Costly repetitive engineering reports for each site
- ♦ Statewide standards vs. local interpretations (RWQCB, DHS Districts)
- ♦ Regulation of water softeners in regards to impact on recycled water quality
- ♦ Regulatory updates in light of current epidemiological and scientific assessments
- ♦ Use of action levels as a compliance mechanism

6. Economics

6.1. Workgroup Members

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6.2. Charges

The main charge of the Economics Workgroup is to identify economic impediments to enhancing water recycling statewide and to make recommendations for mitigating such economic impediments.

6.3. Issues

- ♦ Outline costs and benefits of water recycling and provide rigorous analysis of the true costs and benefits
- ♦ Economic justification of water recycling should be based on comparison with the cost of new sources of water, not existing sources

- ◆ The costs of recycling projects are often borne locally even though the benefits of water reuse often accrue statewide
- ◆ Clarify the economic criteria for state funding of water recycling projects
- ◆ Consider the positive environmental impacts of water recycling upstream since recycling alleviates the demand for fresh water from streams and lakes
- ◆ Consider the benefits of recycling in complying with water quality requirements for discharges into receiving waters
- ◆ Consider the negative environmental impact of recycling on receiving waters due to reducing discharge for the purpose of reuse
- ◆ Anti-growth proponents may view recycled water as a supplemental source to fuel growth
- ◆ Costly repetitive Engineering reports needed for each site
- ◆ Costs related to dewatering and discharge. Must dewater to sewer, can't dewater to creeks
- ◆ Costs related to cross-connection program
- ◆ Costs related to spill reporting
- ◆ Need for seasonal storage facilities

Time Table

It is expected that the different workgroups present their findings to the Task Force for deliberation and adoption by November 2002. Each workgroup will be requested to give progress reports during the Task Force meetings (see the Information Document). The final report can be presented to the Task Force at any of the meetings but no later than the proposed November 19 meeting).

Open Meeting Act






























It appears that the meetings of the different workgroups come under "Brown" Open Meeting Act. Thus, our attorney, John Kramer at (916) 653-5137 or kramer@water.ca.gov, offered his assistance to answer questions from the different committees regarding this issue. Furthermore, our legal office is considering per our request to develop a guideline pertain to the Act in relation to the 2002 Recycled Water Task Force and its workgroups.

Information and Assistance

For questions or assistance in conducting the different Workgroups, please contact one of the following Staff:

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Proposed Timetable for the Task Force Workgroups

TF Meetings	June 3	July 12	Sept. 12	Nov. 19
Science & Health			 	
Plumbing Code/ Cross-connect.		 	 	
Public Edu. & Outreach		 		 
Regulations & Permitting			 	 
Funding / CALFED			 	 
Economics			 	 

 Expert Presentation	 Progress Report	 Final White Paper
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